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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

**CHAPTER V**

**SOLID WASTE**

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## **V. SOLID WASTE**

### **A. ISSUES AND OVERVIEW**

The solid waste system for Fairfax County operated well during FY 2002. The County met its contractual obligations to the COVANTA Energy/Resource Recovery Facility (E/RRF), and all other in-place programs of collection and recycling operated without significant change. The County instituted capacity backup measures to ensure that the County will have capacity in the event that a business or any other issue occurs with the E/RRF such as described below.

There are two solid waste divisions within the County government: the Division of Solid Waste Collection and Recycling; and the Division of Solid Waste Disposal and Resource Recovery. These two Divisions form a single Line-of-Business, under a High Performance Organizational (HPO) philosophy. The two groups meet weekly to discuss issues of mutual concern.

#### **1. Contractual Issues and Landfill Capacity Backup**

One area of interest was that on April 1, 2002, COVANTA Energy Inc. (COVANTA) declared Chapter 11 bankruptcy. This included the Fairfax Energy/Resource Recovery Facility (E/RRF), the main disposal location of municipal solid waste for Fairfax County. County staff had been following a decline in the parent company's stock price before the bankruptcy declaration, and met several times with the company's senior management staff to discuss the implications to the County.

The County also sought to formalize agreements with local landfills after the events of September 11, 2001, along with the Anthrax contamination concerns, due to the threat of the E/RRF being impacted from such actions. The County issued an invitation to bid backup disposal capacity to existing landfills, and received a response from three vendors with four landfills. In late 2001, Fairfax County signed contracts with all three vendors for emergency/backup waste disposal capacity for Fairfax County. These facilities, combined with the existing Prince William County Agreement, would provide sufficient daily capacity for waste disposal for Fairfax County in the event the E/RRF was unable to process waste. The County utilized these alternate disposal locations during FY 2002 when maintenance was performed on the E/RRF.

#### **2. Disposal Fee**

The disposal fee, which residents and commercial hauling companies pay remained at \$45 per ton for FY 2002, and will also remain the same in FY 2003. This fee has remained the same since 1996.

In early FY 1999, the County began to offer a discount on the system fee, from \$45 per ton

to \$36, in exchange for waste delivery commitments from haulers. Larger haulers (those delivering over 5,000 tons per year) were offered contracts with guaranteed delivery commitments based on the prior years' tonnage. Hauling companies that collect less than 5,000 tons per year were offered contracts through which they promised to deliver all of their waste collected in the County to the E/RRF or the I-66 Transfer Station. Most of the waste disposal companies operating in Fairfax County have entered into these contracts.

The discount contract rate for FY 2002 was \$37.95 per ton and the rate in FY 2003 is \$39.95 per ton. The County has been able to maintain participation from local hauling companies at this rate.

While it appears that the County is netting more revenue with the \$2 per ton increase, it actually is not. The associated waste disposal fee at the COVANTA E/RRF also rose by \$2 per ton for FY 2003, hence the increased contract fee simply offsets the increased E/RRF fee costs. The E/RRF's fee increased due to the equipment added for the Clean Air Act retrofits. These modifications make the exhaust from the facility one of the cleanest processes of electrical energy production; they also increase operating and maintenance costs.

The discounted disposal price has put pressure on the overall County solid waste system. The system fee contains the disposal fee paid to COVANTA, plus the additional cost of operating the County's solid waste public benefit program activities such as recycling education, household hazardous waste operations, maintenance of the closed I-66 Landfill, the Transfer Station, ordinance enforcement and the administrative functions of the program.

The difference between the discounted disposal price, which the County charges to haulers (\$39.95 per ton in FY 2003), and the disposal price paid to COVANTA (anticipated at \$30.00 per ton for FY 2003) yields a differential of \$9.95 per ton. The difference is not sufficient to cover all solid waste system costs. This situation has gotten somewhat better, as in FY 2001 the difference was only \$5 per ton. The difference needed to fund the solid waste public benefit programs has been bridged by contributions from the General Fund. No detrimental program cuts were necessary, as sufficient funding was available. Staff will continue to monitor the situation closely and will be making recommendations as part of the Solid Waste Management Plan discussed earlier.

Staff has also continued working with the County Attorney and senior management regarding the Lorton land transfer issues relating to Fairfax County assuming control of the Lorton Reservation, as the landfill and E/RRF are part of that property.

## **B. PROGRAMS, PROJECTS, AND ANALYSIS**

### **1. Waste Disposal**

#### **a. Solid Waste -- I-95 Sanitary Landfill**

##### i. Groundwater Monitoring

Groundwater samples continue to be collected twice per year for analyses, typically in March and September. Results from the September, 2001 groundwater monitoring event exceeded the Groundwater Protection Standards (GPS) established for the facility in several wells, and, pursuant to the landfill's permit, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) was notified. These wells, located very close to the actual buried waste, were anticipated to trigger the notification requirement. Exceeding the GPS limits requires that the County perform an Assessment of Corrective Measures (ACM) to measure the impact of the groundwater to potential receptors, measure the delineation of contamination, and hold a public meeting to discuss the remedy to the problem. The County became aware of the exceedance in February 2002, and, by regulation, was obligated to send the ACM report to DEQ by August 14, 2002. The County has been very active in delineating the nature and extent of the contamination detected, and recently drilled eleven additional groundwater monitoring locations and has sampled them twice for contaminant investigation. The results are still being analyzed by hydrogeological professionals hired by the County. Initial reports indicate the contaminants of concern are located near the actual waste depository, and have not migrated away from the facility. Additionally, no persons are drinking the groundwater downstream, consistent with the Risk Assessment prepared for the facility several years ago.

The engineering controls at the landfill have been instrumental in maintaining good environmental control at the facility. Actions such as landfill closure and landfill gas extraction have worked to reduce groundwater impacts.

The groundwater monitoring program will continue to follow the assessment monitoring requirements of the State, where 216 chemicals are monitored. The County will continue to monitor groundwater and identify potential impacts of landfill operations outside the boundaries of the landfill site.

##### ii. Landfill Gas Systems

The I-95 Landfill also has the largest landfill gas collection system of any facility in the State of Virginia, with over 250 extraction wells. The landfill gas is distributed to a variety of utilization devices, including five enclosed flares and two power plants operated by Michigan Cogeneration Systems (MCS), generating over 6.1 MW of electricity.

A pipeline, installed by the County and MCS between the I-95 Landfill and the Noman M. Cole, Jr. Pollution Control Plant (NCPCP), continues to convey landfill gas to NCPCP for a biomass incineration facility. This pipeline is over three miles in length and continues to result in significant savings in energy cost at the NCPCP, estimated in 2002 at nearly \$1 million for the year.

The establishment of the gas control systems, significantly ahead of state and federal requirements, has not only provided the landfill with outside revenue sources, but has significantly contributed to an improvement in air quality in the County.

The County's consultant, Malcolm Pirnie, had previously estimated non-methane organic compound (NMOC) emissions utilizing EPA-approved Tier 2 sampling methodology for the I-95 Landfill. The results confirmed that the NMOC emission rate at the I-95 Landfill does not exceed 50 megagrams per year. The results are based upon actual field tests of the landfill gas at various sources at the landfill. Based upon this testing, the County determined that the facility was not a major source; therefore, it would be exempt from having to undergo the routine surface monitoring and annual report submittal. However, DEQ established the threshold at 23 megagrams for the Northern Virginia area, and the I-95 Facility will now comply with quarterly surface monitoring and reporting requirements of the rule. Additionally, in July, 2002, the I-95 Landfill submitted a Title V Air Application to the Virginia DEQ to comply with air regulations.

Nearly 20 additional landfill gas wells were drilled during the past year at the landfill. Nearly 15 of these wells were installed to replace old wells that collapsed during the settlement process of the landfill. As the landfill settles, it does not do so uniformly, pinching the open wells in the process. County staff maintains the wells at the site.

### iii. Energy/Resource Recovery Facility

As previously stated, the Energy/Resource Recovery Facility (E/RRF) operated by COVANTA Fairfax, and its parent company COVANTA Energy, Inc. declared bankruptcy on April 1, 2002. Daily operations at the plant have been unaffected, and business occurs nearly normally, as the company works through the

bankruptcy process.

The new continuous emissions monitoring devices were also installed. These devices replaced the older equipment originally installed at the E/RRF, and will monitor opacity, SO<sub>2</sub>, temperature, O<sub>2</sub>, and CO .

The facility also installed an ash conditioning system to reduce dust from the ash product and to enhance the metal recovery from the ash product.

Together, the capital improvement cost for these Clean Air Act improvements totaled nearly \$7.75 million. The operating costs of these devices will also add approximately \$1 per ton to the processing costs of the facility.

The I-95 Energy Resource Recovery Facility monitors all emissions from the facility on an annual basis. This information is sent to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. The facility did report a problem to DEQ in August, 2001 where the continuous emissions monitoring equipment was not calibrated correctly. COVANTA feels that the equipment was operating within tolerances; however, because the equipment was not calibrated per specifications, it is considered un-validated data.

The Guaranteed Annual Tonnage (GAT) requirement for the E/RRF is 930,750 tons per year and remains fixed for the length of the contract between the County and COVANTA. The contract will end in February, 2011 unless modified prior to that date. The amount of waste delivered to the facility in FY 2002 was approximately 1,030,000 tons. The E/RRF discontinued processing wastewater treatment plant sludge from the District in FY 2001 and only processed a minimal amount in FY 2003 from the NCPCP. Sludge processing was discontinued as volumes of solid waste have increased, displacing the need for that waste stream. The amount of waste accepted at the E/RRF exceeded the GAT, and County staff also shipped nearly 60,000 tons of solid waste to other landfills when the capacity (or availability) of the E/RRF could not accommodate waste generation. Staff has worked to maintain the E/RRF at full capacity, therefore maximizing energy production and increasing revenues. The following efforts have been undertaken to continue to meet or exceed the tonnage commitment:

- The waste agreement with Prince William County has been renewed;
- The supplemental waste program has been continued, and the County is working with COVANTA to attract additional waste;
- The County has continued an agreement with the District of Columbia's solid waste contractor to continue deliveries to the E/RRF (at higher prices);
- The County has entered into contracts with haulers to deliver all waste

- collected in the County in exchange for a reduced disposal price; and
- The County has continued the spot market program, to attract out-of-County waste to the facility.

iv. I-66 Transfer Station, Landfill, and Citizens Recycling and Disposal Facility

The Transfer Station was inspected by DEQ several times during 2002 for compliance, and no deficiencies were noted on any inspection.

Staff worked to bring an outside contractor on board to assist with transport of waste to the various disposal locations. The outside contractor serves to add trucks when peak demand requires waste transport, while the County fleet maintains a stable base. The County fleet is somewhat cheaper than the outside contractor, however the peaking flexibility is advantageous to the County and serves to lower overall costs.

Additionally, the County has leased seven tractor units instead of purchasing them outright. This is another experiment to reduce overall operating expenses.

Groundwater monitoring continues around the site. No anomalies were noted in the sampling program during the year.

v. Household Hazardous Waste Program

The County continues to operate two household hazardous waste collection centers; one at the I-66 Transfer Station and the other at the I-95 Landfill, each is open 3-days each week. However, disposal of waste oil, antifreeze, and batteries is available 7-days a week at both sites. This program, as well as the Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator (CESQG) program, are discussed in more detail in the Hazardous Materials chapter of this report.

vi. Ordinance Enforcement

Solid Waste Program staff continue to respond to ordinance complaints related to solid waste issues. In FY 2002, complaints continued to rise slightly, with complaints regarding illegally parked vehicles dropping.

## **2. Waste Reduction/Recycling Programs**

The Fairfax County Division of Solid Waste Collection and Recycling (DSWCR) is

responsible for the management and implementation of the Countywide recycling program to ensure compliance with Chapter 109 of the *Fairfax County Code* and State law and associated regulations. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is responsible for administering regulations that require all municipalities in the Commonwealth to recycle at least 25 percent of the total volume (by weight) of municipal solid waste (MSW) generated in the jurisdiction. These regulations are codified as 9 VAC 20-130-10 and became effective on August 1, 2001. Annual reports documenting the recycling rate for the preceding calendar year are now due to the DEQ by April 30 each year.

To comply with the requirement to measure and track the recycling rate, Fairfax County has developed and currently administers Chapter 109 of the *County Code*, which provides the requirements for solid waste collection, recycling and disposal for residences and commercial properties located within Fairfax County.

The County requires annual reports on the tonnages of recyclables collected by individual solid waste haulers permitted within the County, commercial businesses that generate regulated quantities of MSW, and the Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) and other recycling entities operating in Fairfax County. These reports are due to DSWCR by the end of February of each year. These reports are evaluated and compiled to calculate the Countywide recycling rate, which for calendar year 2001 was 34% (calculated as 34.2%).

The recycling rate of 34% is reduced from the rate calculated for calendar year 2000, which was reported as 36% (calculated as 35.6%). The reasons for this are twofold: first, the methodology for calculating the rate was changed by the recently-promulgated rules as compared to that used for the previous year; and secondly, the MSW generation rate increased slightly, cumulatively causing a reduction in the rate of 1.4%. In reality, the tonnage of recyclables collected in Fairfax County in calendar year 2001 is approximately 4,000 tons less than calendar year 2000 (410,360 tons versus 405,540 tons, respectively). As demonstrated by these calculations, Fairfax County exceeds the recycling requirement of 25% of the overall tonnage of MSW generated in the County.

Figure V-1 below depicts the historical rates of recyclables generation in the County since the recycling program's inception in 1988. As documented in the bar chart, recycling rates in the County have grown steadily over the years, with only minor decreases, indicating a strong trend toward community compliance with the recycling requirements.



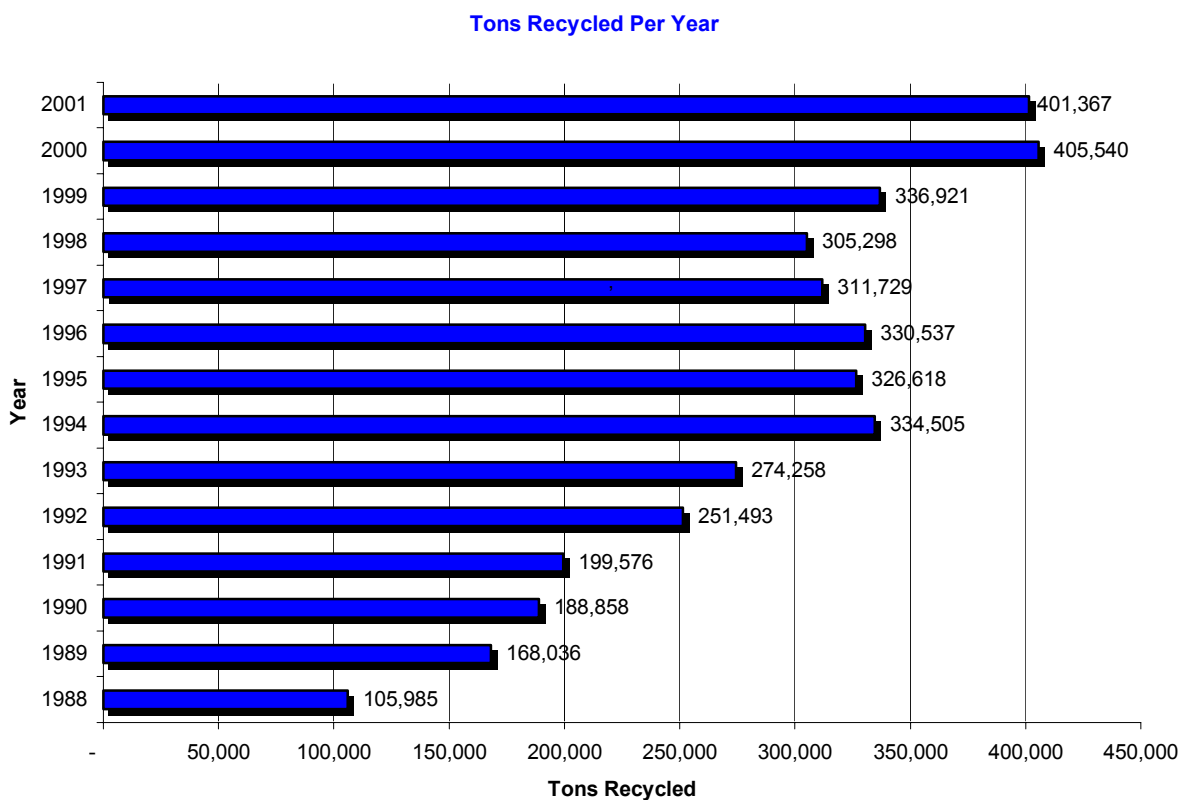


Figure V-1. Tons recycled since the inception of Fairfax County's recycling program in 1988. (Source: Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services)

In addition to Countywide program management, the DSWCR is responsible for the:

- ☐ Collection of refuse and recyclables from about 40,000 residences primarily on the east side of the County;
- ☐ Collection of refuse and recyclables from the County Agency buildings;
- ☐ Vacuum leaf collection for 19,000 residences;
- ☐ Collection of refuse and recyclables from the Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling Centers (SWRCCs or Park Outs);
- ☐ The Recycling Drop Off Centers (RDOCs);
- ☐ Refuse removal due to evictions and other court orders; and

- All public outreach and education for recycling programs.

Brief descriptions and updates of programs are provided in the subsequent sections of this report.

**a. Residential Programs**

**i. Residential Recyclables Collection**

Residential recycling of several Principal Recyclable Materials (PRMs as defined by DEQ regulations) became mandatory in 1992 for all single family homes, residential townhouses, apartment complexes, condominium units, and residential duplexes with curbside collection. PRM recycling became mandatory in 1993 for residential units and building complexes with dumpster service. The recycling of a variety of PRMs is known as multimaterial residential recycling. Currently, DSWCR requires curbside recycling of glass food containers, newspapers, and aluminum and steel cans only from residential areas. However, in 2000, the residences served by County collection were provided with an additional recycling opportunity by adding cardboard and mixed paper.

Weekly curbside collection of newspaper, glass containers and metal food and beverage cans is required to be conducted at all residences served by curbside collection provided by DSWCR or by the other private haulers permitted to operate in the County. Additional voluntary collection of plastics and cardboard may be offered by private haulers. For multifamily dwellings such as apartment buildings that maintain central collection areas in the complex, pick up of recyclables is not required on a weekly basis due to the logistical impacts of the arrangements of these types of dwellings.

In order to ensure that new multifamily dwellings are designed (prior to construction) to provide adequate common areas for the installation and operation of recycling equipment, amendments were made to the *Fairfax County Public Facilities Manual* that became effective for new Site Plans submitted after September 1, 1993. A Recycling System Statement on the Site Plan cover sheet identifies properties required to recycle, so that appropriate facilities may be designed prior to building construction. These requirements do not apply to single family residential complexes that will have curbside collection of refuse and recyclables.

The DSWCR provides refuse and recyclables collection for approximately 40,000 single family homes and 1,200 public housing units. The bulk of the

County's residential units, 207,900 households, receives trash and recyclable collection from approximately 30 private haulers that must be permitted by the DSWCR's sister agency, the Division of Solid Waste Disposal and Resource Recovery (DSWDRR). For those residences not serviced by the County or private haulers, refuse and recycling collection is available once a week at the SWRCCs or Park Outs.

ii. Yard Debris

Recycling of yard debris (small branches, leaves and grass) is also required in Fairfax County. Curbside collection of yard debris is provided by the private curbside haulers, and the County in sanitary district areas.

In 1998, the County faced a shortfall in yard debris management capacity due to the closure of a yard waste management facility used by the County. A new yard waste management facility in Loudoun County alleviated this shortfall in capacity, and in FY 2002, the County sent 49,726 tons of yard debris to be composted. The majority (27,943 tons) was sent to the Prince William Compost Facility at Balls Ford Road, with a smaller amount (21,783 tons) sent to the Loudoun County Compost Facility. These tonnages may not reflect the total tonnages from Fairfax County, as hauling companies take yard debris directly to yard waste facilities. Additionally, vacuum leaves are ground and given to residents at County facilities, and are not reflected in the tons hauled to the composting facilities. An additional 45,905 tons of brush were recycled into mulch, and 9,696 tons of vacuum leaves were distributed. Estimates are made for some portions of the brush and yard waste stream, as it is not practical to weigh some materials given for distribution.

To assist in public recycling education, the County has developed literature on managing yard debris at home and has prepared a video entitled *Essentials of Composting*, which is available from libraries and DSWCR. The Yes In My Back Yard! (YIMBY) program continues, focusing on backyard composting, recycling, and mulching of grass clippings. DSWCR relies on USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to provide composting expertise and advice to residents who request such service.

iii. Drop-Off Centers

Fairfax County operates eight RDOCs, including three cooperative sites in the towns of Herndon and Vienna and in the City of Falls Church. The number of RDOCs has decreased from the fourteen available in 1995, since participation in curbside collections reduces reliance on the RDOCs. However, the RDOCs

provide additional recycling opportunities for residents since these centers are equipped with containers to collect mixed paper, cardboard and the Nos. 1 and 2 plastics bottles and jugs. These RDOCs are relied upon by small commercial operations in the County to facilitate their recycling while significantly reducing their costs for refuse disposal.

#### iv. Solid Waste Haulers

For areas of the County where County refuse and recyclables services have not been requested via the Sanitary District Petition process, privately-owned and operated refuse and recyclables collection firms permitted by DSWDRR collect these material curbside from residences and commercial businesses. These independent haulers do not operate within specific geographic areas but rather compete for individual homes, contracts with civic or homeowner's associations, and commercial or office contracts. As such, there can be instances within the County where several refuse/recyclables collection trucks operate on the same street on the same day. This creates the obvious issues of truck traffic and safety, roadway use, and certain operational inefficiencies with respect to duplicating collection routes. The only area within the County where this duplicative effort does not occur is within the DSWCR's collection area on the east side of the County. These routes are prescribed during the Sanitary District Petition process and are managed according to geographical requirements.

All solid waste haulers permitted in Fairfax County are required to report residential recycling tonnages annually to the County. Reports requesting this information are sent out at the end of the calendar year and are due to DSWCR by the end of February. These reports provide an accounting of the tonnages of individual recyclable commodities collected by individual haulers for use in the preparation of the recycling rate report due to DEQ annually. Private solid waste haulers typically rely on weight tickets to provide the tonnages of recyclables collected and are required to maintain documentation of recyclables collected on file in their office for review and inspection upon request of DSWCR.

### **3. Commercial Programs**

#### **a. Mandatory Commercial Recycling Programs**

DSWCR administers a commercial recycling program that is mandatory for businesses operating in the County based on the quantity of refuse generated or the number of employees occupying the building. Those commercial properties generating 100 tons of waste annually or housing 200 office workers are required to recycle the predominant principally recycled material (PRM) in the waste stream

(typically office paper), and report the quantities recycled annually to the County.

**b. Voluntary Commercial Source Reduction Programs**

The County has promoted source reduction within the private sector by using case studies to publicize the efforts and cost savings realized by businesses that have set up successful source reduction programs. Technical assistance is provided to the private sector to assist them in the development of voluntary and mandatory recycling and source reduction programs. Source reduction in Fairfax County is a challenge because of the lack of manufacturing base where source reduction activities typically are concentrated. The most effective voluntary source reduction strategy that is feasible for Fairfax County is the management of grass clippings and other yard debris in home composting systems or by simply leaving them on the lawn for natural decomposition.

**c. County Agencies**

DSWCR requires that all County agencies serviced by County collection for refuse and recyclables participate in recycling for that particular location. In calendar year 2001, County agency locations recycled approximately 811 tons of materials. DSWCR provides all backup support to ensure adequate communication of the recycling requirements as well as operational support for general programs or other special activities as needed.

**4. Public Education**

Education forms the basis of any County's public outreach effort. To that end, DSWCR focuses on the development and implementation of creative education programs that can take advantage of our partnerships with County agencies, Fairfax County Public Schools, commercial businesses, and private haulers. DSWCR's outreach programs consist of attendance at County events, the support and advertisement of several days every year specifically dedicated to recycling efforts, public speaking opportunities, and technical support of recycling activities and issues.

**a. Annual Events**

Annually, the Solid Waste Program participates in Clean Fairfax Council's Earth Day/Arbor Day event, Celebrate Fairfax, and Fall for Fairfax. These events are a major portion of our overall public outreach campaign and provide the program with the opportunity to provide technical guidance as well as practical information about the County's solid waste and recycling programs. In FY 2002, the Solid Waste Program won the Best of Show Award at the Celebrate Fairfax Event in June with an interactive

display of equipment and programs.

DSWCR also promotes an annual Clean Your Files Day (geared to County agency staff to remind staff of the benefits of recycling of office paper) and America Recycles Day (November 15), when recycled products purchasing is emphasized.

**b. Public Outreach**

Public outreach and education is accomplished through involvement in community events and public speaking opportunities as well as the Solid Waste Program's membership in the Lorton Citizens Alliance Team (LCAT). DSWCR is asked to make presentations to a variety of citizen's groups every month of the year, and they make every effort to accommodate the quantity of requests. DSWCR has prepared formal presentations on a variety of issues to allow ease of presentations, even upon short notice.

DSWCR is in the process of updating all of the written publications to account for changes in programs and activities. Publications are being rewritten to ensure the clarity of the contents and that they are informative and present information in a suitable fashion to address a particular question or issue. All publications will eventually be available on the County website to allow for the ease of access and printing for distribution. Additionally, the County maintains an automated recycling information line (324-5052) for citizen access to recycling opportunity information.

The Solid Waste Management Program is taking full advantage of the internet by placing pertinent information about timely subjects on its website. Information about the Program's involvement in events as well as new information about recycling is constantly updated on the web.

DSWCR is also using the web to collect information from citizens as well as the regulated community as a service to its customers to aid in the provision of information back to the County. The forms developed by DSWCR to collect data from recyclers in the County used to calculate the recycling rate are on the website in a format which automatically totals the tonnages of recyclables collected. More opportunities to use the internet will avail themselves as technology advances.

The County will be embarking on a public-private partnership to collect unwanted computers and other discarded electronics for ultimate recycling to assist in local pollution prevention efforts. Opportunities for the collection and recycling of other recyclable commodities not collected curbside or at the RDOCs will be explored for implementation on a regularly-scheduled basis within the County as determined by need.

## **C. LEGISLATION AND REGULATORY CHANGES**

There have been several notable changes, along with proposals to change regulations, during the past year that have affected the solid waste management program. These are listed below:

- Solid Waste Management Plan – The Virginia Waste Management Board promulgated new regulatory requirements (9 VAC 20-130-10) that require all of Virginia’s Cities, Towns and Counties to develop new Solid Waste Management Plans. These Plans are required to be submitted to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality by June 2002. The plans will span a 20-year planning horizon and will focus on all types of solid waste generation within a City, Town, County, or Planning Area. Fairfax County is “gearing-up” to begin preparing the plan for the County, and this will involve selecting a consultant to assist staff with plan preparation and public outreach.
- SB 592 – In early April 2002, the Governor introduced substitute language for an existing Senate Bill which would have levied a \$5 per ton surcharge on all waste deposited in Virginia’s landfills. The bill, as proposed, exempted waste-to-energy facilities, but would have applied this fee to the ash that is deposited into landfills. For Fairfax County, this would have amounted to a payment of approximately \$1.8 million to the State. The fee was proposed primarily to go back to local governments for open space preservation and land conservation projects, as well as local recycling support. The proposal was defeated in Virginia’s Senate, but was carried over for future discussion and consideration.
- Amendment No. 3 to the Solid Waste Management Regulations – Major modifications were proposed by DEQ to these Regulations. The original proposal would have placed undue hardship on local governments to site and develop new waste disposal units. The regulatory changes were initially proposed as the result of Virginia General Assembly previously approved legislation to require DEQ to certify need for new waste disposal facilities. Revised regulatory language that is more acceptable to local governments has been developed by DEQ and has been sent to the State’s Department of Budget for review prior to promulgation.

## **D. RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. EQAC is very pleased that the County took the initiative to acquire backup capacity in the event that Energy/Resource Recovery Facility (E/RRF) issues arise in the future. The County could benefit from applying a thorough “Futures Analysis” or “Risk Analysis” of the overall program to look for additional potential weaknesses and to develop action plans for any apparent weaknesses.
2. EQAC continues to be concerned with the economics of waste disposal in Fairfax County. Based on pending legislation and financial considerations, pressure to increase costs to residents is rising. EQAC would like to assist the two divisions responsible for solid waste management in an assessment of efficiency and cost avoidance of the entire system. We feel that business processing re-engineering could yield options to consider in a cost benefit analysis.
3. EQAC remains opposed to any action to subsidize tipping fees in the County, and we do not support any proposal that would reduce the effectiveness of recycling programs by redirecting waste paper products to the Energy/Resource Recovery Facility (E/RRF).

## **LIST OF REFERENCES**

The narrative and illustrations were supplied by the Division of Solid Waste Collection and Recycling and the Division of Solid Waste Disposal and Resource Recovery.